



VaRRA News

Newsletter from the
Vail Ranch Restoration Association

Copyright 2010, Temecula, California

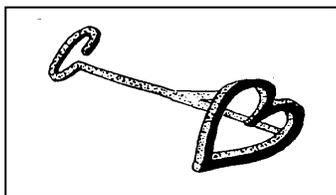
1st Quarter 2012 – Volume 3, Issue 1

“Dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the Historic Vail Ranch Headquarters.”

Little Temecula History Center is Open on Sunday – In Red Implement Barn next to Kohl's At Margarita and Temecula Pkwy.

Sundays 12 – 5 pm
Or by Appointment

Come see the results of Our efforts, and perhaps Volunteer to be a docent.



Vail Ranch Restoration Association

41403 Bitter Creek Ct.
Temecula, CA 92591

Phone: 951-699-5148

Cell: 951-552-3516

E-Mail: info@vailranch.org

On the web at
www.vailranch.org



An old fashioned Barn Dance was enjoyed by a nice sized group on Saturday evening during VaRRA's Civil War event weekend acknowledging the Showalter Affair.

The Showalter Affair

Temecula's Own Civil War Event Revisited With Re-enactment

By Steve Clugston

We were invaded by rebels and federal sympathizers on November 19 & 20, 2011 at the old Vail Ranch site and History Center. The morning of Saturday, Nov. 19 saw the arrival of the "California Volunteers" (also known as the California Column) from Fort Tejon; an excellent and well researched unit who portray California federal volunteers during the years 1861 to 1865 in the southwest. Their uniforms were worn and plain compared to the more colorful troops fighting in the famous battles in the east during the War Between the States, but their displays and knowledge was well documented and demonstrated.

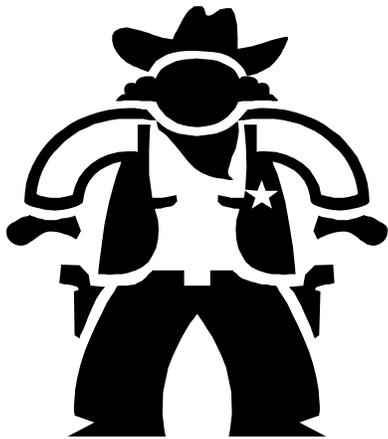
The opening ceremony saw all the union soldiers raising the colors with an appropriate musket volley, and we were off to a bang!

Many period 1860s demonstrators and camps were situated in front of the Wolf Store and around the flag pole in the center of the old ranch site. Don Smith from Arizona is an accomplished historic Civil War artist who set up his wonderful art inside his canvas awning next to Shelly Peters' from Nuevo, California. Her large and well stocked "Kansas Mercantile" was an excellent example of a Civil War "sutler". (They were the merchants that traveled from camp to camp during the war and supplied the soldiers with everyday items, clothing and even canned foods that were not issued to them by the Army, or by their state militias.)

(Continued on next page)

Friends of VaARRA Associate Members

Robert & Carol Anderson
Audrey & Vince Cilurzo
Robert & Kathryn Curtis
David Elliott & Anne Miller
Walt & Jean Dixon
Elaine Eshom
Dale Garcia
Phil & Connie Harris
Sue & Jim Jeffrey
Pat Lallou
Bonnie Martland
Jimmy & Peg Moore
John Moramarco
Duane & Judy Preimsberger
Lyz Quinn
Rosemary & Ray Smith
Karen & David Strauss
Catherine Swetavage
Roger Weber
Lisa Woodward



VaARRA Board of Directors

Darell Farnbach, President
Rhine Helzer, Vice President
Rebecca Farnbach, Secretary
Sandy Helzer, Treasurer
Dick Fox, Newsletter
Charolette Fox
Malcolm Barnett
Loretta Barnett
Bill Harker
Dave Wilson
Toni Benson

Temecula's Civil War Event (Continued from Page 1)

Members from the "Frontier Army of the West" attended our event and portrayed California volunteers of the 1st & 2nd California Volunteer Cavalry, including women civilians dressed in appropriate dress from the 1860s and demonstrating sewing and other skills. Sons and Descendants of both Union and Confederate Veterans rounded out the displays with a long table exhibiting 1860s muskets, hand guns along with framed and graphic material which documented the visual representation of the great conflict. All of this was attended with uniformed and costumed re-enactors and living historians making a very colorful event.

Daniel Showalter, the California assemblyman, secessionist and last surviving duelist in California was the main reason for the event. His band of rebels had camped at the old Magee store in Temecula during November of 1861, and were later apprehended at Mesa Grande near Santa Ysabel not far from the old Warner's Ranch site.

The public was non-stop and was streaming in all day long to witness the day's festivities. We re-enacted the infamous duel between Showalter and Piercy at least twice on Saturday and brought cheers from the visitors. An old Butterfield Stage coach arrived in the afternoon and reminded all of its importance to our local history, especially regarding the Southern Emigrant Trail through the property in front of the Wolf Store. Many visitors were thrilled with the opportunity to take a stagecoach ride during the afternoon.

Saturday evening at the History Center we had a wonderful old fashioned "barn dance" attended by both the public and costumed re-enactors. Everyone danced to the lively tunes of Jesse Cross and his square dance band. It was a big hit, and set an example for possible future dances.

Sunday saw a church service at the History Center, and more visitors throughout the morning. By 11:00 am on Sunday, it was apparent that the weather man had let us down and we finally could not dodge the bullet as the rain began and we all had to pack up for drier ground. The first Temecula Civil War event is now history, and was a great success. Hopefully our fellow Temeculans are now richer for the experience, knowing more of our ancestors' role in America's great trial of the Republic, as it was played out here in Southern California, 150 years ago!

My thanks to Rebecca & Darell, as well as to all of the VaARRA and Temecula Valley Historical Society volunteers. Their hard work and support leading up to the event and during the busy weekend, certainly was a big part of the success of the event and a huge Thank You to all.



These gentlemen are all cousins and related to Daniel Showalter. They are descendants of Mr. Showalter's older brother, and traveled from Pennsylvania, Arizona and Northern California to attend the event.

Restoration Update . . .

Brougham Coach

Considerable progress has been made on the restoration of the Brougham Coach. Extensive repair work was done in the front area around the driver's compartment, the doors removed and repairs inside to get the sliding door windows working. During recent efforts a date of 1885 was found on a door handle.

The back window needed replacing, as did the material covered top. There is still plenty of work to be done on the interior upholstery covering. The interior and seats are stuffed with horsehair. Once the work is done we already have a donor lined up who has committed to do the finished pin-stripping and decorative accents to the exterior.

Small Buggy

Earlier in the year a buggy which we had inherited more than two years ago, was restored. Part of the finishing project was some wonderful upholstery work done by our own Darell Farnbach. This little buggy has an interesting jump seat arrangement that would make it ideal for a small family, or the occasional extra passenger. This buggy got a finished coat of nice black paint, and is proudly on display at the Little Temecula History Center.



One of the re-enactment scenes being done in front of a nice sized crowd. Between Saturday and Sunday we had 970 visitors to both the re-enactment site and the VaRRA History Center. Bonnie Mariland loaned material that helped create a large display at the History Center, and her extensive knowledge of the Civil War and Powerpoint Presentations provided appropriate context to the Showalter Affair event.

Recent Donation

Pechanga Donates Acorn Granary to VaRRA

The Pechanga Band of Mission Indians recently donated a very nice acorn granary. It is approximately 6 feet in diameter, and over 40 inches in height. It was created by their youth during a recent summer tribal heritage event.

It is made from woven fresh willow, and has a hollow center area that would be large enough to hold acorns for a family to last many months. The best acorns are from the Black Oak and found on Palomar Mountain during the fall harvest time.

The acorn nut would be ground into a flour consistency, then a leaching process used with water to remove the naturally occurring tannic acid. After drying the finished flour is prepared as a mush or bread.

VaRRA is certainly proud to have received this granary, and appreciate being able to include it in our display for visitors to appreciate.

Group Tours and Events

In addition to the visitors at the History Center during our regular Sunday afternoon hours of operation, we have many other activities and events, including private group tours by appointment.

During the first quarter of 2012 we had a group of home schooled children, a Cub Scout Pack, and an area P.E.O. chapter. At times the Temecula Wine Society also has their functions at the History Center.

An organization known as B.A.R.N. (Be Able and Ready Now) meets twice a month on the second and fourth Thursday evening from 7 to 9 pm. For more information contact susan.thebarn@gmail.com

On the fourth Monday each month the Temecula Valley Historical Society has its monthly meeting, which starts at 6 pm with a history related program, followed by a Board Meeting. TVHS meetings open to the public.

Brief Notes . . .

Library Progress

VaRRA has been very fortunate in receiving help with our Native American Library. Caleah James is working on her Master's in Archiving and is earning college credits through assisting VaRRA in helping to complete the cataloging and identification efforts.

802 data sheets of the Native American books have been entered into our database. The majority has been known as the Cherry/Parr Collection, but this original core collection has been augmented in recent times by other donations. Labels with call #, title, author and subjects have been printed and placed on acid free paper. These will be used to identify each book. Sorting and organizing by groupings is now underway.

On our E-mail List ??

Our primary method of distribution of this newsletter is through our growing e-mail list, but if you have not received a copy of our newsletter and would like to be added for e-mail distribution, drop us a note at info@vailranch.org and we will be glad to add your address. Printed copies are usually available at the History Center during each quarter. In the event you missed an issue then go to temeculahistoricalsociety.org website, Local History tab, scroll down click on Historic Vail Ranch, then scroll to links for past issues.

2011 Artifact Donation Recap

During 2011 we received many nice artifacts donations. Early in the year Duane & Judy Preimsberger donated multiple items including cast iron toys, flat irons, many kitchen related items, and lamps. A restored 1901 Doctor's buggy has found a new home at VaRRA courtesy of Glen & Rosemary Ashcraft.

A one cylinder gas International Harvester engine is now part of our collection, and it runs well. With a heavy flywheel it is easy to start, and fun to watch putt putt !

A natural gas powered Electrolux refrigerator, Rancho California Rose Banner, cobbler's tools became part of our collection, along with a signed Ralph Love print of Temecula. Other nice pieces include a Model T Ford lubrication chart, an old rotary dial phone, and multiple kitchen items including a meat grinder and corn sheller.

Dr. Anne Miller and David Elliott made multiple donations of books to the VaRRA library. To round out the year we got an old crock ware pot, as well as a framed print of a Jefferson Davis portrait.

Numerous Eagle Scout Projects In Planning & Approval Stage

No less than 3 local Eagle Scout candidates have projects in the planning stage that will benefit VaRRA and/or the Historic Vail Ranch property.

One is looking into a new flagpole, a second one is considering some added signage to highlight the Wolf Store adobe, and a third one will build a small shed to display and protect from the elements a couple of small engines that VaRRA has acquired over time. Many thanks to these young men for their interest in helping VaRRA keep the story of the historic site in the public's view.

Santa Rosa Plateau Foundation to Have Garden Tour Fundraiser April 28

On Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. the Santa Rosa Plateau Foundation will have a Garden Tour of private gardens, and a Garden Party at the Plateau. In addition to the private garden tours, participants will have the opportunity to attend workshops, and purchase native plants.

Ticket information is available on their website at www.srpf.org.

Recent Estate Sale at Casa Loma Nets Old Harness Repair Vice and Stool

During a recent Estate Sale at Casa Loma (Mahlon Vail's old home on Via San Carlos), Darell Farnbach spotted and bought a harness repair vice and stool. With some minor repairs we now have another piece of history to show our visitors – one that they can “see, feel & touch.”